

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

REGION 8

999 18<sup>TH</sup> STREET - SUITE 300

DENVER, CO 80202-2466

Phone 800-227-8917

<http://www.epa.gov/region08>

Lincoln County Port Authority  
Mr. Jim Mayo  
P.O Box 1071  
Libby, MT 59923

Mr. Mayo,

I would like to take a moment to reiterate EPA's plans for the removal at the former Stimson Lumber Central-Maintenance Building (CMB) to clear up any confusion that may exist. Based on a conversation with Paul Rumelhart, I understand that you believe you have not received sufficient information about EPA's plans with respect to the CMB. In this letter I will outline steps I intend to take to ensure you are directly involved in future communications regarding this project.

EPA plans to remove vermiculite from inside the walls of the mobile shop, from the mid-line walls, and remove the contaminated roofing material from the mobile shop roof. More detailed plans will be available for your review by the end of the month. The plans are being prepared by EPA's Emergency Response and Removal Services (ERRS) contractor as I write this letter.

We are still on schedule to begin in early April, provided that the weather cooperates. EPA has not changed contractors since we began this effort last March, and our clean-up strategy has not changed since we last spoke in September. EPA's general strategy in Libby is to remove the vermiculite insulation (VCI) and other contaminated materials only when there is no other option that will be adequately protective of human health and the environment. In the case of the VCI in walls, the preference is to leave it alone, and entomb it in place. Due to the nature of the walls and the type of activities that are or will be taking place at the former CMB, this option is not viable, so EPA is proposing removal of the VCI. Similarly, the contaminated light cement on the roof of the mobile shop is damaged, and it would remain a risk if left in place. The other roof surfaces are in good shape, so, even if there is asbestos in some areas, it does not pose a risk if left undisturbed. EPA's technical contractor, CDM, sampled two locations on the lower roofs, and did not find any asbestos, Libby Amphibole or otherwise. While this does not indicate that the lower roof is asbestos free, it does show that any problem present is not widespread, and that it is most definitely not of an emergency nature.

Both Jim and I have felt that our words and statements have been misrepresented to some degree through this whole process. We've tried to be as consistent as conditions will allow and tried to clearly communicate our plans. As I said, our plans have changed little, if at all. Most often, miscommunications or misrepresentations seem to occur when Mr. Rumelhart is involved.



Whether or not Paul is a factor, he is not an employee of the Port Authority, and we feel we should make our communications more formal in the future to avoid any misunderstandings. At this point, our preference is to deal solely with you. All of my communication with you will be in writing, or a phone call followed up by a letter. Also, all correspondence will be copied to five people: Jim Christiansen – EPA RPM, Courtney Zamora – DOT (Volpe), and the County Commissioners. Any communication that EPA's contractors have (both CDM and EQM) with the Port Authority or its representatives will be followed up with a letter or email to me. If you have specific questions or issues, we certainly welcome them, but please forward them to me in writing. We ask this only so we can avoid any unnecessary disagreements. We both want the same thing, which is a clean central maintenance building - we look forward to a successful cleanup this spring.

Thank you,

Craig Myers  
Federal On Scene Coordinator  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
999 18<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 300  
Denver, Colorado 80202  
303.312.7067  
[myers.craig@epa.gov](mailto:myers.craig@epa.gov)

cc: Jim Christiansen, EPA  
Courtney Zamora, DOT Volpe Center  
Marianne Roose, Lincoln County Commission Chairperson  
Rita Windom, Lincoln County Commissioner  
John Konzen, Lincoln County Commissioner